

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method for screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating the activity of a Toso cell surface receptor, said method comprising the steps of:

a) adding a candidate bioactive agent to a hematopoietic cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso cell-surface receptor, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid will hybridize under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement;

b) exposing said **hematopoietic** cell to an apoptotic agent that will induce apoptosis; and

c) determining the effect of the candidate bioactive agent on apoptosis.

10. **(Previously Amended)** A method according to claim 9, wherein a library of candidate bioactive agents is added to a plurality of hematopoietic cells comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso cell-surface receptor.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising adding a labeling agent that will label apoptotic cells.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 further comprising separating apoptotic cells from non-apoptotic cells.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said labeling agent is annexin.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said separation is done by FACS.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said apoptotic agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-Fas antibody, TNF- α , FADD, cycloheximide, PMA, ionomycin and chemotherapeutic agents.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method of modulating apoptosis in a cell comprising administering to said cell an exogenous compound that binds to a Toso protein, wherein said Toso protein is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement, and wherein said binding modulates apoptosis in said cell ~~the biological activity of said Toso protein.~~

17. **(Previously Amended)** A method according to claim 16 wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein reduces or eliminates the biological activity of said Toso protein.

18. **(Previously Amended)** A method according to claim 16 wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein increases the biological activity of said Toso protein.

19-25. (Cancelled)

26. **(Previously Added)** The method according to claim 9, wherein the hematopoietic cell is a lymphocyte.

27. **(Previously Added)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the lymphocyte is a B lymphocyte.

28. **(Previously Added)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the lymphocyte is a T lymphocyte.

29. **(Previously Added)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the hematopoietic cell is a lymphoid cell.